

## A Tribute to New York Hardcore

Welcome to issue #6 of The Night Owl Fanzine. This particular issue is a tribute to some of the lesser known New York Hardcore bands of the late 80's. These bands don't seem to get enough recognition from people, often because the big 3, Cro-Mags, Agnostic Front, and Warzone garnered most of the attention. As time goes on different bands come and go who use the old NYHC sound to influence their music, but most never come close to the originals. Included are download links so you can hear these recordings for yourself. If you have questions/comments email me at KingCobra291@yahoo.com -Charlie Numbers

**NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****NYHC****By Ryan Wilson****Root in Pieces—My Rage (1987—One Step Ahead Records)**

I was 8 years old when My Rage came out. I had no clue what hardcore was or even what this band was. In 1987 when I was graduating high school, my friend gave me a mix tape with the first song as, Old Grey Mare Stomp going into We Gotta Know by the Cro-Mags. I thought this was weird because when I got the Another Planet/Profile CD (1994) of the Cro-Mags' Age of Quarrel/Best Wishes, the intro was completely different. I thought to myself, "was this a different intro? was this a different recording of Age of Quarrel?" I refused to do any type of research on this and thought that I was special and this was some rare thing I had been given. A lot of people thought I was high (which I probably was at that time) when I played this tape at parties/hangouts. I would tell them that this was "the other" Cro-Mags intro to Age of Quarrel. It wasn't.

I found out it was Root in Pieces at the beginning of that tape. I felt very betrayed that my friend would do something like that to me but then later found out it was cool to teach up other songs and not label what they were, to simply be pretentious. It took me a while to track down a copy of My Rage but I finally got it. I listened to the song Keep Your Distance about 15 times in a row because it made/still makes a lot of sense to me. Old Grey Mare Stomp/Slack Raving Music sound better than Old Grey Mare Stomp/We Gotta Know because that was the way it was supposed to sound.

Through the brief history that I know of, Root in Pieces started in 1985 and Armand Majdi (Sick of It All, Straight Ahead) played guitar. He took over vocals with Rob Etcheverria (Straight Ahead) on guitar. This was about the time that Straight Ahead was coming to an end and members of SA wanted to pursue another band. This would be the dawn of Root in Pieces and the LP, My Rage. This LP was more like a crossover record meshing up SOD and AF into the breakdowns like their former band Straight Ahead. The record title sums up the screeching. NY RAGE. It's a very pissed off record that emphasized a lot of things there were still are working with society. Religion, War, Death, and simply fucking off are some of the topics covered in songs like Toys R Us, Army of God, and Pools of the World. I am not one to tell the Night Owl audience what "they should be listening to or else...." but overall, this record is very underrated nowadays. With bands like the Cro-Mags, Breakdown, and Underdog still playing, a lot of older NYHC kinda gets swept under the rug. As much as it sucks to say, I feel that this is one of them. It shouldn't be. If you do own a copy of My Rage, I am making a small request. Put out your record, flip it over to side B, have your landlord or parents or whoever you are fucking confrontational with, and turn the receiver up to 11.

1,2,1,3 AH YOU CRAZY GUY YOU PUT MAYONNAISE ON MY SANDWICH AND I DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR IT, WAIT A MINUTE, I KNOW WHAT THIS IS.....

—SUCK MY DICK BALLS AND ALL.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/7omo25myxny>

**Thanks:**

Ryan Wilson  
John Caution  
[DoubleCrossWebzine.blogspot.com](http://DoubleCrossWebzine.blogspot.com)  
Albert Avicious  
All the bands featured

**DMIZE-Backlash EP**

Along with Occupied Territory, this was one of the first DMS bands featuring Hoya who later joined Medball. This record is actually 3 demos put together. It sounds like stampy, pummeling hardcore that like some of the other bands of the time period had a huge drum sound, this might've been because a lot of bands were crossing over and using heavy metal guitar riffs in their songs. You could refer to their musical style as "street metal". Both the music and the lyrics on this record are hard as hell. The singer spits out his vocals like bullets from a gun. They have really street level lyrics about how fucked up the world is, daily survival in the streets etc.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/75j5dyduneg>

**DMIZE-Live on WNYU**

One of the many series of NYHC live sets recorded on WNYU's (Crucial Chaos?). I can't stress enough how cool this one is. The songs are bursting with enthusiasm, like the band has been under extreme pressure for a long time and now they are relishing the chance to let it all out. The singer Chiqui's rapid-fire vocal attacks suit the violent crunchy music perfectly. From the sound of it they brought half their crew with them into the studio, and you can hear them heckling the band and getting rowdy the whole time, with the band giving them shoutouts every chance they get. They play most of their material and it almost sounds better here than on record...very enjoyable to listen to. I can't even pick a favorite song, the whole set is rock solid.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/2jmu2ogamnu>



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### The Icemen-Rest in Peace EP

The Icemen formed in NYC's Greenwich Village in 1983. From there on they went through an assortment of vocalists most notably Carl "The Mosher" a well respected, charismatic hardcore frontman with a commanding stage presence. They are best known for their Rest in Peace EP which was recorded in the 80's but finally released in 1991. As far as sound goes they are more of a metal band with the edge and street credibility of a hardcore band. First of all the drumming is amazing courtesy of Mackie (also of The Cro Mags and later Madball). A lot of The Icemen's music is very drum driven especially on tracks such as "The Harsh Truth". It's cool to see a drummer that doesn't relegate themselves to the background and plays the drums with the same complexity as a bass or lead guitar player, he really beats the shit out of his drums! The vocals are one thing that really stand out with The Icemen. Carl sings with snarling ferocity and his delivery really stand out from other hardcore bands of the period, and really gets stuck in your head. The guitarist on this record completely shreds too, playing some ridiculous solos. I guess it's safety call them a crossover band. Some songs are driving metal with hardcore vocals like "Rest in Peace" and "No Guts No Glory" others like "the Harsh Truth" and "Shadow Out of Time" are more stompy NYHC sounding. Lyrics are mostly preoccupied with death and others are tinged with a hint of mental illness and paranoia and just living in harsh times.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/7tib3mzzhwjz>

### The Icemen-Buried Alive EP

Another unofficial Icemen EP.. The A side is a slow stomping track featuring great throaty vocals from my man Carl, some catchy guitar hooks and a cool guitar solo. It's called "Fire and Ice". The B side is one of my favorite Icemen songs "Buried Alive". It's another thrashy, Cro-Mags style song that makes me want to stage dive and circle pit. This EP is a diamond in the rough for diehard Icemen fans.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/7gta2wyu2nzc>

### The Icemen-Live at CBGB's 7/3/88

This is only 3 songs and sounds a little sloppier than the 9/21/88 show, but is still a must listen for Icemen fans. The three songs are "I'll Be Your Grave" which was later taken by Carl and titled "Buried Alive". The second song is probably called "Don't Let It Go to Your Head", I don't think I've heard this anywhere else. That's another thing I like about the Icemen, is that there seems to be unreleased material all over the place and you're always discovering new gems. They close with another rarity "The Iceman". This set is another must download if you really dig this band.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/2h2gyyyt2owt>



You can view a few videos of The Icemen live at CBGB's on their youtube channel located at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/icemenTV>. I would suggest you listen to the recorded material first, as these are kind of inaccessible to the first time listener due to sound quality issues.

### The Icemen-Four Song Promo

Nowadays there's a lot of Schlam between band members and x band members of The Icemen. Marco, one of the founders of The Icemen kicked out their most popular vocalist Carl "The Mosher" during his tenure with the band because of his "vocal limitations". In my opinion and the opinion of many Icemen fans, Carl is one of the main reasons that the band is so memorable, his vocals and delivery are really distinctive and make them stand out from other bands. Carl and Mackie were arguably the band's strongest connection to the NYHC scene, Carl used to sing for Underdog and was known for his hard dancing at CBGB's matinees. When he got kicked out, he continued to use The Icemen name and formed a new group with some of the band's roadies at the time. I can understand why Marco would be at him for using the name and some of the band's imagery, however I can't help but be happy that Carl took the concept and ran with it further creating some rad new songs and reworking unreleased Icemen tunes that the band accused him of ripping off from them. If he hadn't pulled his sketchy moves, we hardcore kids might not this extra rare material as well as the Buried Alive EP. There are a lot of interviews on the Internet with Marco and he always spends half the interview complaining about Carl, which I think is lame because Carl was one of the major reasons why people gave a fuck about his band in the first place. He also acts like kind of a snob towards the hardcore scene (at least that's how he kind of comes off). This 4 song promo isn't as good as the Rest in Peace material, but if you're a diehard fan and get enough of The Icemen then you'll really dig this one. "Right Now" is probably the strongest track on here with a driving Cro-Mags-like feel. The other tracks are slow to mid tempo stompers with Carl's distinctive vocals crooning and snarling. "Inside" features some catchy drumming, an awesome mosh part, and is one of the songs he allegedly ripped off from his bandmates. Their version was a song called "Ritual".

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/2u0yyyzmbnym>

### The Icemen-Live at CBGB's 9/15/88

This set kicks off the never heard elsewhere "Take You Down", a song that starts out as blistering thrash, then goes to mid-tempo, then back to thrash with a sick guitar solo laid down on top of it. Next up is an awesome version of "Shadow out of Time" which displays how tight The Icemen were as a band. Lots of different parts in this song and they're all executed with precision, the drumming really stands out this recording as does the wailing guitar solo. Next, a fast and vicious version of "I'll Be Your Grave". The set just keeps getting better and better with a hard as nails version of "The Harsh Truth", the drums on here sound unbelievable. Such an aggressive sound. They close the set out with a quick run through of their signature song "Rest in Peace". The quality of this recording is great as far as a live bootleg goes, props to whoever recorded this slice of NYHC history. It captures the essence of the band very well.

Download Here: <http://www.mediafire.com/2mnjxace15mz>